

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE YELLOW
MEDICINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA
September 9, 2003**

The Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 am on Tuesday, September 9, 2003, in the board meeting room. Present were Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Ron Antony, Jane Remiger, Louie Sherlin and Chairperson Gary Johnson. Also present were County Attorney Thomas Kramer, County Auditor Carolyn Sherlin, and news reporters Bethany Norgaard, and Dan McGonigle. The chairperson called the meeting to order. On motion, the agenda for the day and the minutes of August 26, 2003 were accepted and approved by the board.

Commissioners Reports were given on the following topics: Minnesota Machinery Museum, Township Officers Annual Meeting, Highway Department Staff Meeting, Pioneerland Library, and Area II.

Gene Thul, Blue Cross Health Insurance Provider, reported that Yellow Medicine County will incur an 11% increase on the employee health insurance plan for 2004. Several alternate health insurance plans called "common plans" were also presented. The current county health insurance policy is a \$250 deductible and increasing the deductible amount is being considered a cost-saving idea. He will send us various options with higher deductibles.

Supt. Palmer Anderson, from Lakeview School, discussed a plan for the demolition project of the old school buildings located in Cottonwood and Wood Lake. Also present were Jack Kennedy and Reed Kennedy. Permission was requested for an exemption from the "permit by rule" process in order to allow the school to find a closer one-time demo site for the debris from the old school buildings. The demolition material is composed of concrete, brick, and wood, is not hazardous and does not contain any asbestos. Using a demo site that is located near the buildings will decrease hauling costs sufficiently and may save the school district up to \$50,000. After the demo project is completed, the site will be closed. Special permission is needed in order to bypass the Solid Waste Ordinance that requires all demo material to be placed at a licensed demo site. The county solid waste ordinance provides for two demo sites. Antony moved to allow said permit with the understanding that application and site must also be approved by the Planning & Zoning office and the Pollution Control Agency. Remiger seconded motion. Voting Yes: Antony, Remiger, Sherlin. Voting no: Anderson, Johnson. Motion carried. Johnson stated that he believed this action could start a precedent for other persons making the same request.

At 11:30 am a public hearing was held to consider the Ditch Repair Liens for 2004 and receive comments from the public on the same. Ditch Inspector John Kolhei reviewed fund balances on each ditch and recommended the following liens:

County #1B	5%	#36	10%	12	10%
1B-E	10%,	37	5%	13	10%
8	10%,	45	10%	23	10%
9	1%,	54	10%	32	10%
31A	10%	58	10%	33A	10%
31E	5%	8LQP	10%		

After review and discussion, Sherlin moved for approval, Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Discussion of the proposed 2004 Property Tax Levy was held. After review of the levy limits set by the state and the loss of \$313,890 in state aid from the HACA program, Sherlin moved to set the gross levy at \$6,610,071. After deduction of the state paid county program aid of \$761,058, the net Property Tax Levy for 2004 will be \$5,849,013. Antony seconded motion. Voting yes: Antony, Johnson, Remiger, Sherlin. Voting no: Anderson. Motion was carried.

The County Attorney reviewed various litigation within the county,
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noting that one lawsuit against the sheriff department, initiated several years ago was decided in favor of the county. He also reviewed the status of the flood buyouts on Parcel's 09-010-1080 and 09-010-1090. The final closing of the property transaction will be held as soon as the county receives the FEMA-reimbursement money, which should be sent out within the next several days. Sherlin moved to direct the county attorney to proceed with all necessary paperwork, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

The county attorney then reviewed his 2004 proposed budget and the workload status of his office. Present at this time were Assistant County Attorneys Keith Helgeson and Amanda Sieling. Much of the work is brought to them by the sheriff's office, family service office, and the court system and caseloads have increased greatly in the last several years. Keith does all the necessary criminal work and Amanda does child protection issues. The high-demand cases in 2003 involved termination of parental rights case. He offered 1000 hours of service of his time for 2004 at his current rate of pay. No action was taken. A special request was made for a salary step-adjustment for Keith Helgeson, considering his ten-year history with the county. No action was taken.

A request was made for the purchase of a new computer system and a server for the county attorney's office. After discussion, Anderson moved to approve said purchase, using monies from the reserved computer fund, Sherlin seconded motion carried.

Remiger moved to approve the application to conduct Bingo for the St. Leo American Legion Post #524. Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor.

The following resolution was presented for approval:

JOBZ APPLICATION SUB-ZONE RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL
TO AUTHORIZE TAX EXEMPTIONS

WHEREAS job creation, business development, and individual wealth growth in the cities of Clarkfield, Canby, Porter and Granite Falls and the townships of Hammer and Norman, Minnesota have been less than the national and state averages; and

WHEREAS the resulting affects of such lagging job creation, business development, and individual wealth growth have harmed and are forecasted to continue to harm the economy of the cities of Clarkfield, Canby, Porter and Granite Falls and townships of Hammer and Norman; and

WHEREAS the Job Opportunity Building Zone (JOBZ) Program created in Minnesota Session Laws 2003, 1st Special Session, Chapter 21, Article 1 allows for the formation of tax free zones;

WHEREAS an application for tax free zone designation in the cities of Clarkfield, Canby, Porter and Granite Falls and townships of Hammer and Norman is being prepared for submission to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development via the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held on the 9th day of September, 2003, upon careful consideration and review, approves the specific areas designated in the application for tax free zones, approves of the use of tax exemptions and tax credits within the designated zones (subject to proper review and approval by the other appropriate taxing authorities within the zones), and encourages the Minnesota Department of Employment and economic Development to approve the Tax Free Zone Application being submitted by the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Yellow Medicine County agrees to provide all of the local tax exemptions and credits required and provided for under the Job Opportunity Building Zones (JOBZ) Legislation and agrees to forego the tax benefits resulting from the local and state tax exemptions and credits provided under the Job Opportunity Building Zones (JOBZ)

Anderson moved to adopt the above resolution, Sherlin seconded motion, all voted in favor.

A resolution approving the 2004 Property Tax Levy of \$23,528 for the Housing and Redevelopment Program was introduced. This levy, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.033, provides that the levy amount cannot exceed .0144% of the taxable market value of the taxable property within the Authority's area of operation within the county. Anderson moved for approval, Sherlin seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Due to the resignation of the Planning & Zoning Officer, a vacancy exists in that office. Antony moved to appoint Jolene Johnson as Acting Zoning Administrator in the interim time period until a new one is hired. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Sherlin moved to direct the auditor to advertise for a Planning & Zoning Officer, Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor. It was determined that the salary range for this position would be in the \$30,00 to 40,000 range

The following claims were presented for approval:

REVENUE FUND

Advocate-Tribune	652.10
American Communications Inc	626.05
Aramark Correctional Services	2,865.24
Best Western Hotel & Restaurant	240.92
Michelle Caveney	120.76
Cenex Convenience Card	653.51
Chappell Central, Inc	150.00
Computer Profess Unlimited Inc	2,417.22
Daves Family Foods	176.07
Davis Typewriter Co Inc	129.93
Ecolab	397.24
Farm & Home Publishers	158.11
Fromm Snyder Drug	1,447.15
Galls Inc	175.46
Ikon Office Solutions	216.72
Information Systems Corporation	1,880.34
Jay O'Day Inc	172.54
Kilowatt Computer Service	2,715.75
Kollen Motors Inc	191.12
Lab Safety Supply Inc	567.23
Loffler Business Systems Inc	689.06
Prairie Lakes Detention Center	1,890.00
Jane Remiger	100.08
Louis Sherlin	106.56
Uniforms Unlimited	496.03
University of MN-Ag Ext Serv	1,619.62
Wal-Mart Community BRC	199.52
West Central Communication Inc	2,337.30
Payments less than \$100	1,223.82
TOTAL	\$24,615.45

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

A & J Auto Supply Inc	147.01
Boyer Ford Trucks	358.65
CDW Government Inc	114.14
Computer Profess Unlimited Inc	338.92
Consumers Coop Oil Co	314.61
Diamond Vogel Paint	424.94
Farmers Coop Association	341.16
G & K Services Inc	124.78
Granite Fluid Power	518.47
Martin Marietta Aggregates	1,453.84
Piorier Equipment Co	727.31
Royal Tire Inc	185.93
Sawmill Builders Supply Inc	177.19
Tri-County Coop Oil Company	485.20
Payments less than \$100	554.61
TOTAL	\$6,266.76

DITCH FUND

Baker Brothers Construction Inc	300.00
Oftedahl Tiling & Dozing	981.00
Upper MN Regional Development Comm.	5,000.00
Payments less than \$100	270.11
TOTAL	\$6,551.11

FINAL TOTAL

\$37,433.32

Meals & Per diems were also presented in the amount of \$814.36 for the Revenue Fund. Sherlin moved to approve payment on the above claims, Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor. As all business for the day was completed, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairperson, Yellow Medicine
County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Carolyn Sherlin, County Auditor
and Clerk to the County Board